

Governor Urges Businesses to Hire Trained Former Offenders at CALPIA's Employer Forum

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. delivered opening remarks at the Bay Area Employer Forum, hosted by CALPIA and CDCR in March. More than 150 business owners attended the event at Merritt College and learned about the benefits of hiring trained former offenders. Employers heard about reducing recruitment and training costs and utilizing work opportunity tax credits.

This was the third Employer Forum held by CALPIA within a year. The first two Employer Forums were held in Sacramento and Los Angeles.

The California Sheriff's Departments also partnered in the events and talked about their efforts to rehabilitate offenders at the local level.

In his opening remarks, the Governor said, "I have talked with offenders who have experienced both failures and successes, and those who have experienced success attribute it to post-release employment and that was their turning point."

CDCR Secretary and Prison Industry Board Chair Jeff Beard spoke and emphasized that employment helps to stop the revolving door of offenders going back to prison.

Prophet Walker, a former offender, left the prison system, attended Loyola Marymount University and then became a Project Engineer. He encouraged employers to give offenders a second chance.

Seven Bay Area employers received recognition for hiring former offenders including Tri-CED Community Recycling, RocketSpace, Give Something Back Office Supplies, Nautilus Group, Turner Group Construction, Dig Deep Farms and Produce, and Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay.



(Above) Prophet Walker encourages employers to hire former offenders.



(Above) The Nautilus Group was one of several employers recognized at the event.



Female Offenders Graduate with Job Training Certifications at Folsom Women's Facility



On May 28, 2015 California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA) hosted a graduation for female offenders at Folsom Women's Facility (FWF). Approximately 70 offenders graduated from CALPIA's Career Technical Education (CTE) programs and received certifications in Computer-Aided Design (CAD), Pre-Apprentice Construction Labor, Pre-Apprentice Carpentry, Healthcare Facilities Maintenance, Warehouse & Logistics Training and Customer Service Representative Training.

Speakers included CALPIA's General Manager and Prison Industry Board's Executive Officer Charles Pattillo, Folsom State Prison and FWF's Warden Ron Rackley, and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1000's President Yvonne Walker. Walker encouraged offenders to never give up on their dreams and strive for success.

CALPIA's CTE programs are some of the most effective rehabilitation programs in California with a cumulative recidivism rate of 7.13 percent

Pre-Apprentice Carpentry and Pre-Apprentice Construction Labor Graduates receive their certificates.



SEIU Local 1000 President Yvonne Walker congratulates graduates.



Code.7370 Proves Successful at San Quentin State Prison

On April 20, 2015, the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA) held a first-of-its-kind graduation ceremony for sixteen offenders. The offenders completed Code.7370, a new innovative computer coding class offered at San Quentin State Prison.

CALPIA, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), Hack Reactor, and the co-founders of the Last Mile Program have partnered to provide the program.

The new Code.7370 is part of CALPIA's Career Technical Education (CTE) programs. The class simulates a live coding environment without Internet access. The six-month program teaches HTML, CSS and JavaScript. Staff and executives from the Silicon Valley business community developed the course syllabus and help administer the instruction.

"The real-world job experience this computer coding class provides is beneficial to inmates and the general public," said Charles Pattillo, General Manager of CALPIA. "If a person can leave prison, get a job and not come back, it saves taxpayers money and keeps communities safer."

Graduate Chris Schumacher talked about his amazing journey learning the coding language and how he has been able to build a computer app dedicated to fitness and health. He is confident the skills he has learned will help him find employment when he is released.

"I am honored to be here as a Code.7370 graduate," said Schumacher. "This class has had a profound impact on my life."



(Above) Dr. Brant Choate, Superintendent of CDCR's Office of Education, makes a key point.



(Left) Chris Schumacher receives certificate. (Above) First class of Code.7370 graduates.



“CALPIA Gives” Campaign Donates Toys to Sacramento Children’s Home

During the 2014 holiday season, CALPIA employees participated in the CALPIA Gives Campaign, a campaign implemented by the Sacramento Children’s Home Giving Tree Program, which provides gifts for more than 3,000 local children and families annually. CALPIA hosted a giving tree where gifts and gift cards were collected and individuals fulfilled children’s wish stars.

Our tree had stars that represented a child between the ages 2 to 14 years old. Employees helped grant their wishes by donating toys, clothes, and gift cards. A total of 65 wishes were fulfilled, including gift card and snow trip wishes, and everyday items such as toothbrushes, deodorant and shaving supplies were donated. Winter clothes such as hats, gloves and scarves were also donated to the Saint John’s Program for Real Change.



(Above) Laurel Sunderman, Dorenda Hamarlund, Alex Dininger, Robert Perkins, and Tim Gallagher deliver boxes filled with toys and personal items to the Sacramento Children’s Home]

System Improves CALPIA Furniture Quality

The CALPIA furniture factory at Avenal State Prison recently began utilizing an Ultraviolet (UV) automated computerized finishing system, brand name Cefla, for its wood products. The Cefla finishing line processes hundreds of wood components daily. The Cefla finishing system has improved the finishing process by 70%. The traditional finish takes more time to process due to the application and curing (drying) time. The Cefla UV finish cures instantly. The UV finish is more durable resisting fading, peeling and scratching. The finish seals the wood product from the elements and provides a beautiful, resilient surface. The most recent major project was the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) residential furniture for Redding and Fresno locations.



Cefla finishing system located at Avenal State Prison.

Offenders Graduate with Special Worker Occupational Training



Fourteen CALPIA offenders graduated as certified Worker Occupational Safety and Health (WOSH) specialists at the Correctional Training Facility in Soledad.

The Worker Occupational Safety and Health Specialist course is comprised of eight basic modules covering a number of topics. The topics range from preventing injury and illness to proper cleaning of blood borne pathogens and hazardous materials.

The course is administered by the Department of Industrial Relations Commission on Health and Safety and Worker's Compensation.

One of the goals of the program is to train California workers to be leaders in promoting health and safety in their workplaces.

As of January 2015, there are 62 WOSH specialists assigned to CALPIA.

Pictured above are the fourteen graduates along with CALPIA Administrator Greg Sheffield, CDCR Captain Donnie Metcalf, and Arnold Gomes, CALPIA Superintendent II of Maintenance and Repair.



Thousands of Eyeglasses Donated to Families in Need

On May 20, 2015 approximately 5,000 pairs of eyeglasses were dropped off at Folsom State Prison for refurbishing by offenders in California Prison Industry Authority's (CALPIA) Digital Services Enterprise. Lions Club members

proudly dropped off the glasses to the prison after they were collected at various stations across the state. CALPIA offenders sort, clean, test, and repair the glasses which are then donated to needy families in the United States and other countries.

Don Ring, Lions Club member, Donna Orth, CALPIA employee, Michael Retzlaff, the Lion's Club incoming District Governor, and Colin Martin, CALPIA employee assist in the eyeglasses drop-off.

Computer-Aided Design Marks Success



CALPIA is seeing success with its Computer-Aided Design program for female offenders at Folsom Women's Facility.

This first-of-its kind certification program that uses the software AutoCAD provides training for careers in Architecture, Mechanics and Engineering to female offenders.

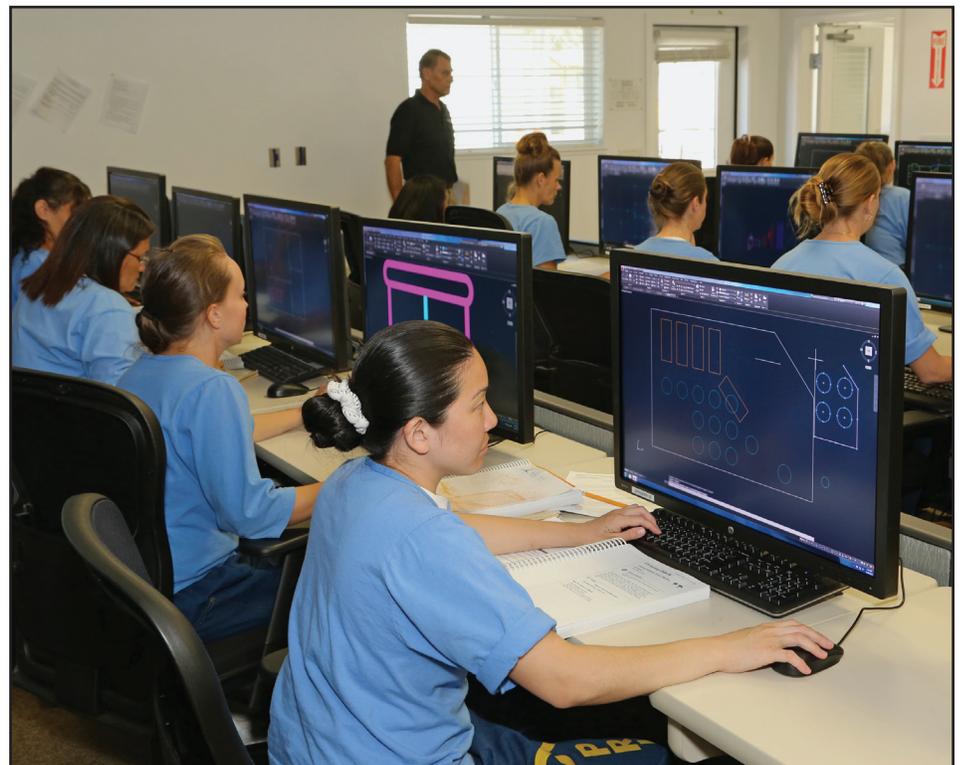
In September 2014, 36 female offenders graduated from the AutoCAD program, 21 graduated with an AutoCAD certificate, 8 graduated with an Inventor certificate, and 7 graduated with a Revit certificate.

One graduate who earned both the AutoCAD & Inventor certificates paroled in November 2014 and acquired full-time employment with an Architectural firm.

CALPIA offers courses using AutoCAD, Revit and Inventor programs. Currently, 25 offenders are enrolled in the AutoCAD and Revit courses. The difference between the three programs depend on the type of 3-D applications.

Instructors for the course include Autodesk-certified instructor Brian Shamrock and Autodesk-certified instructor Michael Yeager, assisted by Rob Chilamidos and Misty Dyas.

(Above) Nineteen graduates receive certificates in Computer-Aided Design.



Terry Shupe Retires With Over 40 Years in Construction

Terry Shupe began working for CALPIA right when the carpentry program launched in 2005. In an interview with Shupe, he opened up about the biggest challenges when working with offenders, saying that it was “keeping them focused.” “You have to get them to believe in the program, since they will be able to use the skills on the outside.”

During Shupe’s time with CALPIA, the carpentry program turned out 130 offenders who landed union jobs after they paroled.

Shupe continued to share, saying, “It’s a tough program, but the rewards are right in front of them. The program pays for their tools, their dues and gets them into the union over everyone else who applies. You have to help them realize that they’re not just getting a job washing dishes and sweeping floors. They’re getting a career. They’re getting the chance to earn \$20 an hour. They can buy a house or a car.”

The biggest reward he said he received while working with offenders is, “when you get the call from them and they’re working in the union. That’s someone who is not coming back to prison.”

Shupe has worked in construction for over 40 years and has been looking forward to a quiet retirement. He did mention the construction of a chicken coop post-retirement, but that’s all the carpentry he’s done since leaving CALPIA.

Terry Shupe will be missed in the CTE Carpentry Program.



CALPIA General Manager Chuck Pattillo honors Terry Shupe for his 40 years in construction.

